

CLAIM LISTING

1. (amended) A method of reducing pathogens in a mammal's blood stream by exposing the blood in a extracorporeal fluid with nitric oxide, comprising:
 - (a) providing an extracorporeal blood circuit comprising an inlet line adapted to receive blood from a patient or a blood source, an outlet line adapted to return blood to the patient and/or the blood source, a fluid circuit for fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet line, and at least one pump acting on the fluid circuit to circulate blood therethrough and out the outlet line,
 - (b) circulating the blood through the extracorporeal blood circuit, ~~and~~
 - (c) exposing the blood in the circuit with nitric oxide gas in a concentration sufficient to reduce pathogenic content in the blood; and
 - (d) providing a free-radical scavenger unit that exposes the blood to free-radical scavengers after the blood is exposed to the nitric oxide.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising including in the circuit a blood treatment component, treating blood with the component, and at least upstream of the component contacting blood in a portion of said circuit with nitric oxide gas in concentration sufficient to reduce pathogenic content in the blood.
3. (original) The method of claim 2 further comprising selecting said component from the group consisting of a dialysis component, an organ perfusion component, a heat exchange component, an oxygenation component, or a combination thereof.
4. (previously withdrawn)
5. (previously withdrawn)
6. (previously withdrawn)
7. (previously withdrawn)
8. (previously withdrawn)

9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pathogens are septicemia and/or bacteremia.
10. (previously withdrawn)
11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the nitric oxide gas is mixed with other gases.
12. (previously withdrawn)
13. (canceled) The method of claim 1 further providing a free-radical scavenger unit that exposes the blood to free-radical scavengers after the blood is exposed to the nitric oxide.
14. (previously withdrawn)
15. (amended) An extracorporeal blood circuit comprising an inlet line adapted to receive blood from a patient or a blood source, an outlet line adapted to return blood to the patient and/or the blood source, a fluid circuit for fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet line, and at least one pump acting on the fluid circuit to circulate blood therethrough and out the outlet line; ~~and~~

a nitric oxide unit that exposes the blood in the circuit with nitric oxide gas in a concentration sufficient to reduce pathogenic content in the blood; and

a free-radical scavenger unit that exposes the blood in the circuit, after being exposed to nitric oxide gas, with a free-radical scavenger in a concentration sufficient to reduce the nitric oxide content in the blood.
16. (previously withdrawn)
17. (previously withdrawn)
18. (previously withdrawn)
19. (previously withdrawn)
20. (previously withdrawn)
21. (previously withdrawn)
22. (previously withdrawn)
23. (previously withdrawn)
24. (previously withdrawn)

25. (previously withdrawn)
26. (canceled) The device of claim 15, further comprising a free-radical scavenger unit that exposes the blood in the circuit, after being exposed to nitric oxide gas, with a free-radical scavenger in a concentration sufficient to reduce the nitric oxide content in the blood.